Of course it is difficult to create a memorial which commemorates a war that the United States fought within itself. However, this design is the least controversial way to honor the people who fought for what they believed in, no matter what side they were on. The most prominent and important feature of this memorial would be the water. The water would not be stagnant; it would be controlled by a system that would keep it constantly moving. This feature would be representative of progress. The Civil War was highly controversial and the ability to move on from the injustice is something that is worth commemorating.

In total, there will be three fountains. The first fountain will be facing the north. Anybody who visits the memorial will be able to pull out a compass and see that the fountain is pointed directly towards the north. That first fountain will be a one-tiered fountain about six feet tall and made of grey marble. On the sides of the fountain will be almost inconspicuously engraved the names of the states that stayed loyal to the Union. There will be nothing awe-inspiring about the fountain. It will be standing surrounded by a pool of water that is constantly moving. This pool of water will be attached on both sides to a small river-like channel that connects it to both the east and the west which will be denoted by small placards labeled simply with either a “W” or an “E.” Both of these placards will be in small pools of their own which will be connected by the same channel to another pool of water pointed towards the south that will contain another fountain. This fountain will also be made of grey marble and around six feet tall. It will be unassumingly engraved with the names of the Confederate states. The north and south fountains and the circular placards denoting the other directions of the compass will create an outer ring of about a 24 foot diameter.

Inside of this ring will be a large twelve foot tall, two-tiered black fountain. This fountain will be sitting taller than the others on a man-made shelf of land. On the base of the fountain will be chains engraved into the surface. These engravings will be filled to make them white. The base tier of the fountain will be scalloped in order that the water can spill over the sides and into the pool beneath the fountain. This pool will be connected on all four sides to the pools surrounding the other two fountains and the two placards. Out of the bottom tier of the largest fountain will come the totally black top tier of the fountain. The words “The United States of America” will span around the circumference of the top tier. The rest of this massive tier will be completely blank. This blankness is not for a lack of anything significant to say, it is to represent the future. The future of the United States has yet to be written and we have plenty of time to correct the wrongs that have been done. The progress that the water represents will lead to the future. While the other two fountains will simply be gurgling, the middle fountain will be spouting water continually. The water will hopefully reach a couple of feet into the air representing progress that leads us into the future.

This memorial will be open for interaction with the general public. The north and south fountains will be open as wishing wells. People will be invited to throw coins into the fountain and make wishes for the United States and its continued progress, justice, and other related things. The middle fountain is much more inaccessible because of the channel that surrounds it so it will not be open to the public, if only for safety reasons.

\*\*In order to make this memorial more environmentally friendly, the water will be filtered of all soot, leaves, and other litter underground and then recycled.\*\*

The ring of fountains that make up this memorial embody the unity that took place after the civil war. Though the unity is emphasized through the structure of the memorial, the ring of fountains also gives room to honor the beliefs of those on the north and south side. Both sides accomplished notable acts that should be commemorated in the Washington Mall for not only America to see but the world.

As mentioned earlier, the risk of a potential controversy in inevitable. Though this is a very sensitive war, it is only fair to those Americans who have ancestors that fought in this war to acknowledge their sacrifice on both the Confederate and Union sides. In spite of this we do acknowledge the inevitable controversy, and do recognize that it could be born from a number of reasons. One reason might be simply the fact that we are deciding to commemorate a war that America had within itself. We realize that some people feel ashamed of this war, and might wish to not commemorate what they believe to be a shameful time period in American history. People may also feel that this memorial commemorates a chaotic time in America, something like that shouldn’t be put on the Washington Mall for the world to see. We do realize that each of the memorials or monuments in the Washington Mall acknowledges an event that eventually lead to the progression of American history, we also know that this memorial might be viewed to be acknowledging a digression in American history. In response to this controversy we state that both Confederate and Union sides exhibited American values that we still treasure in today’s society. The south exhibited a great amount of courage when it stood in opposition against the union’s movement to abolish slavery. They took the act as a threat, and were quick to protect their own. The act of protecting something you believe in is a value still cherished by most Americans today and should be commemorated in this memorial. We should also take in account that at least **258,000 soldiers died on the Confederate side, and these men sacrificed their lives for what they truly believed in. This does not only exhibit a treasured American value, but also a commendable amount of courage.**

**The Union also displayed a commendable amount of courage, in focusing not only to abolish slavery from America, but to also reunite a split country. It is due to the Union’s perseverance and bravery that we are able to live in this free country today. We will stress the fact that we must remember that without this war, America would have never become what is today.**

Our memorial will chronologically fit in between the Washington monument and the World War II Veterans Memorial. The reason we chose this spot is because it symbolized the progression of our countries history, stating that the Civil War was a step forward for America, instead of a step back. It also states that America will only continue to make progression, with the continuation of the World War II Veteran Memorial.

Our memorial doesn’t aim to just commemorate one event that took place during the American Civil War, but instead to commemorate the Civil War as a whole. The two separate fountains on either side of the center fountain symbolize the split that occurred between the North and the South. States like Georgia, Florida, Texas, Mississippi, Louisiana, South Carolina, Arkansas, Alabama, Tennessee, Virginia and North Carolina formed what we know as the Confederate states. These states are commemorated by the presence of the South fountain. The remaining 20 states make up what we know today to be the Union states and they are represented in the North fountain. The largest and central fountain symbolizes the America that was born out of the civil war in of which we find great pride in today.